GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2651
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
TEST TUBE MANGOES
BHUWAN CHANDRA AVSM (RETD.) KHANDURI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to News-item `Test Tube Mangoes` appearing in `The Hindu` Delhi on March 16, 2000;

(b) whether the Government have interacted with the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in this regard;

(c) if so, the status thereof; and

(d) the research and development in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) The Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, has supported a R & D project at BHU for standardizing a complete protocol for regeneration of mango through tissue culture. This project is a part of the network programme at (1) Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, (2) Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore, (3) Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow, (4) National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow and (5) National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.The scientists of BHU have published the information of micro-propagation of North Indian mango variety `Chausa` and hybrid `Amrapali` in a scientific Journal `Current Science` January, 2000.

(d) Under the Project at BHU, studies are being undertaken on plantlet regeneration for 4 mango varieties - Amprapali, Chausa, Mallika and Langra. The protocol has been standardized for plantlet regeneration through somatic embryogenesis.Efforts are being made for hardening and transfer of these plantlets to the soil. This activity needs to be further perfected since the survival percentage of the plants in the soil at present is very low.